

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1-83. (Cancelled)

84. (Currently amended) A process for producing a packaged combination for making a fuel which comprises at least one metal hydride compound and a polar solvent and has a hydroxide ion concentration of not higher than about 7 moles per liter, ~~wherein the~~ process comprises providing a container having a first compartment and at least one second compartment, partially or completely filling the first compartment with a concentrate which differs from the fuel at least by comprising only a part of the polar solvent and by having a hydroxide ion concentration which is higher than the hydroxide ion concentration of the fuel, and partially or completely filling the at least one second compartment with an amount of polar solvent which in combination with the concentrate will afford the fuel, and ~~wherein the fuel is suitable as fuel for a direct liquid fuel cell;~~ the solvent in the at least one second compartment comprises at least one additive for the fuel; wherein the additive is selected from plasticizers, detergents, and antifreeze.

85. (Previously presented) The process of claim 84, wherein combining the concentrate in the first compartment with the solvent in the at least one second compartment

results in a fuel having a hydroxide ion concentration of not higher than about 6 moles per liter.

86. (Previously presented) The process of claim 85, wherein the concentrate is such that not more than about 2 % of the at least one metal hydride compound decomposes when the concentrate is stored for 4 weeks at about 25°C.

87. (Previously presented) The process of claim 85, wherein the concentrate contains the at least one metal hydride compound in a concentration of at least about 3 moles per liter.

88. (Previously presented) The process of claim 84, wherein the at least one metal hydride compound comprises at least one of NaBH_4 , KBH_4 , LiBH_4 , $\text{Be}(\text{BH}_4)_2$, $\text{Ca}(\text{BH}_4)_2$, $\text{Mg}(\text{BH}_4)_2$, NaCNBH_3 , LiH , NaH , KH , CaH_2 , BeH_2 , MgH_2 , NaAlH_4 , LiAlH_4 , and KAlH_4 .

89. (Previously presented) The process of claim 88, wherein the concentrate further comprises at least one of LiOH , NaOH , KOH , RbOH , CsOH , $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$, $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$, $\text{Ba}(\text{OH})_2$, and NH_4OH .

90. (Previously presented) The process of claim 89, wherein the polar solvent comprises at least one of water, methanol, ethanol, ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol,

glycerol, acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, diethyl ketone, methyl acetate, ethyl acetate, dioxan, tetrahydrofuran, diglyme and triglyme.

91. (Previously presented) The process of claim 87, wherein the concentrate comprises water, at least one of NaBH_4 and KBH_4 , and at least one of NaOH and KOH .

92. (Previously presented) The process of claim 84, wherein combining the concentrate with the solvent in the at least one second compartment affords a fuel having a concentration of the at least one metal hydride compound of at least about 3 moles per liter.

93. (Previously presented) The process of claim 84, wherein the concentrate is substantially free of any additives which adversely affect the stability of the at least one metal hydride compound.

94. (Previously presented) The process of claim 84, wherein the concentrate is substantially free of plasticizers, detergents and antifreeze.

95. (Previously presented) The process of claim 84, wherein the concentrate is substantially free of any stabilizer for the at least one metal hydride compound which is different from a hydroxide ion providing compound.

96. (Cancelled)

97. (Cancelled)

98. (Currently amended) The process of claim ~~96~~84, wherein the solvent in the at least one second compartment comprises at least one of an aliphatic and an aromatic amine stabilizer for the at least one metal hydride compound.

99. (Previously presented) The process of claim 84, wherein the container is designed to allow a mixing of the concentrate in the first compartment and the polar solvent in the at least one second compartment inside the container.

100. (Cancelled)

101. (Currently amended) A container for providing a fuel which comprises at least one metal hydride compound and a polar solvent and has a hydroxide ion concentration of not higher than about 7 moles per liter, ~~wherein~~ the container comprises a first compartment and at least one second compartment, the first compartment containing a concentrate which comprises at least one metal hydride compound and a polar solvent and has a hydroxide ion concentration which is higher than the hydroxide ion concentration of the fuel, and the at least one second compartment containing a solvent which is the same as or different from the polar solvent of the concentrate, and ~~wherein~~

combining the solvent in the at least one second compartment and the concentrate in the first compartment affords the fuel, and wherein the fuel is suitable as fuel for a direct liquid fuel cell; wherein the solvent in the at least one second compartment comprises at least one of an aliphatic and an aromatic amine stabilizer for the at least one metal hydride compound.

102. (Previously presented) The container of claim 101, wherein the container is sealed and allows a mixing of the concentrate and the solvent in the at least one second compartment before discharging same from the container.

103. (Previously presented) The container of claim 101, wherein the container is associated with instructions to allow the concentrate and the solvent in the at least one second compartment to mix before discharging same from the container.

104. (Previously presented) The container of claim 101, wherein the first compartment and the at least one second compartment do not surround each other.

105. (Previously presented) The container of claim 101, wherein the first compartment is at least partially surrounded by the at least one second compartment.

106. (Previously presented) The container of claim 101, wherein the at least one second compartment is at least partially surrounded by the first compartment.

107. (Previously presented) The container of claim 101, wherein the concentrate contains the at least one metal hydride compound in a concentration of at least about 3 moles per liter.

108. (Previously presented) The container of claim 101, wherein the at least one metal hydride compound comprises at least one of NaBH_4 , KBH_4 , LiBH_4 , $\text{Be}(\text{BH}_4)_2$, $\text{Ca}(\text{BH}_4)_2$, $\text{Mg}(\text{BH}_4)_2$, NaCNBH_3 , LiH , NaH , KH , CaH_2 , BeH_2 , MgH_2 , NaAlH_4 , LiAlH_4 , and KAlH_4 , and the concentrate further comprises at least one of LiOH , NaOH , KOH , RbOH , CsOH , $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$, $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$, $\text{Ba}(\text{OH})_2$, and NH_4OH .

109. (Previously presented) The container of claim 108, wherein the polar solvent comprises at least one of water, methanol, ethanol, ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, glycerol, acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, diethyl ketone, methyl acetate, ethyl acetate, dioxan, tetrahydrofuran, diglyme and triglyme.

110. (Previously presented) The container of claim 101, wherein the concentrate comprises water, at least one of NaBH_4 and KBH_4 , and at least one of NaOH and KOH .

111. (Previously presented) The container of claim 110, wherein combining the concentrate with the solvent in the at least one second compartment affords a fuel

having a concentration of the at least one metal hydride compound of at least about 2 moles per liter.

112. (Previously presented) The container of claim 101, wherein combining the concentrate with the solvent in the at least one second compartment affords a fuel having a concentration of the at least one metal hydride compound of at least about 3 moles per liter.

113. (Previously presented) The container of claim 111, wherein the concentrate is substantially free of any additives which adversely affect the stability of the at least one metal hydride compound.

114. (Previously presented) The container of claim 101, wherein the concentrate is substantially free of any stabilizer for the at least one metal hydride compound which is different from a hydroxide ion providing compound.

115. (Previously presented) The container of claim 113, wherein the solvent in the at least one second compartment comprises at least one additive for the metal hydride containing liquid.

116. (Previously presented) The container of claim 115, wherein the additive is selected from plasticizers, detergents, and antifreeze.

117-118. (Cancelled)

119. (Currently amended) A packaged combination for providing a fuel, ~~wherein the~~ combination comprises a first container and at least one second container, the first container containing a concentrate which comprises at least one metal hydride compound and a polar solvent and has a hydroxide ion concentration which is higher than a hydroxide ion concentration of the fuel, and the at least one second container containing a solvent which is the same as or different from the polar solvent in the first container, the solvent in the at least one second container and the concentrate in the first container together affording the fuel, and ~~wherein the fuel is suitable as fuel of a~~ direct liquid fuel cell; wherein solvent in the at least one second container comprises at least one of an aliphatic and an aromatic amine stabilizer for the at least one metal hydride compound.

120. (Previously presented) The packaged combination of claim 119, wherein the combination is associated with instructions to combine the concentrate in the first container with at least a part of the solvent in the second container.

121. (Previously presented) The packaged combination of claim 119, wherein the concentrate contains the at least one metal hydride compound in a concentration of at least about 3 moles per liter.

122. (Previously presented) The packaged combination of claim 121, wherein after storing the concentrate for 4 weeks at about 25°C not more than about 2 % of the at least one metal hydride compound has decomposed.

123. (Previously presented) The packaged combination of claim 119, wherein the at least one metal hydride compound comprises at least one of NaBH_4 , KBH_4 , LiBH_4 , $\text{Be}(\text{BH}_4)_2$, $\text{Ca}(\text{BH}_4)_2$, $\text{Mg}(\text{BH}_4)_2$, NaCNBH_3 , LiH , NaH , KH , CaH_2 , BeH_2 , MgH_2 , NaAlH_4 , LiAlH_4 , and KAlH_4 , and the concentrate further comprises at least one of LiOH , NaOH , KOH , RbOH , CsOH , $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$, $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$, $\text{Ba}(\text{OH})_2$, and NH_4OH .

124. (Previously presented) The packaged combination of claim 121, wherein the concentrate comprises water, at least one of NaBH_4 and KBH_4 , and at least one of NaOH and KOH .

125. (Previously presented) The packaged combination of claim 121, wherein combining the concentrate with the solvent in the at least one second container affords a fuel having a concentration of the at least one metal hydride compound of at least about 2 moles per liter.

126. (Previously presented) The packaged combination of claim 119, wherein combining the concentrate with the solvent in the at least one second container affords

a fuel having a concentration of the at least one metal hydride compound of at least about 3 moles per liter.

127. (Previously presented) The packaged combination of claim 119, wherein the concentrate is substantially free of any additives which adversely affect the stability of the at least one metal hydride compound.

128. (Previously presented) The packaged combination of claim 119, wherein the concentrate is substantially free of plasticizers, detergents and antifreeze.

129. (Previously presented) The packaged combination of claim 128, wherein the concentrate is substantially free of any stabilizer for the at least one metal hydride compound which is different from a hydroxide ion providing compound.

130. (Previously presented) The packaged combination of claim 119, wherein the solvent in the at least one second container comprises at least one additive selected from plasticizers, detergents, and antifreeze.

131-139. (Cancelled)

140. (Previously presented) The process of claim 84, wherein the direct liquid fuel cell is a portable liquid fuel cell for use with a portable electric or electronic device.

141. (Previously presented) The container of claim 101, wherein the container is of a size which is adapted for use with a portable liquid fuel cell for a portable electric or electronic device.

142. (Cancelled)

143. (Previously presented) The packaged combination of claim 119, wherein the combination is of a size which is adapted for use with a portable liquid fuel cell for a portable electric or electronic device.